

AMUSEMENTS

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.
Monday Night—Nordica.
Friday Night—Victor's Venetian Band.

BIJOU THEATRE.
"Through Death Valley"—all the week.

Madame Nordica.
The society event of the autumn season will be the Nordica concert at the Academy of Music to-morrow night. The number of those who have engaged boxes is greater than for any other occasion this season, and with a splendid sale of seats for all other sections of the house, it is now an assured fact that the world's greatest singer of the heavy notes of Wagnerian operas will be greeted by a magnificent audience, representing the best social element, not only of Richmond, but also of many neighboring towns.

Mme. Nordica arrived in Richmond yesterday afternoon, coming over the Chesapeake and Ohio in her luxuriously equipped private car, the "Plymouth Rock."

Perhaps no one in this city is looking forward to the concert to-morrow night with greater eagerness than the young ladies of the Woman's College and of the Westminster School, on Grace Street. Large parties from each of these schools will attend, and also the leading music teachers of the city and their pupils. One of the young ladies remarked yesterday: "It has been the dream of my life to hear this great singer."

The Washington Herald in referring to the concert says: "Every song was received with raptures, and at the end of each number during the evening, a perspiring usher ran the length of the hall, bearing in his arms a bouquet of flowers, American Beauties, Bridesmaid roses, gaudy chrysanthemums of every hue, pink and finally a beautiful laurel wreath—all these were gifts of love from the audience to the singer."

Indeed, the years have been kind to Mme. Nordica. If they have touched her at all, it is to make her a more regal figure, to lend her voice a slightly deeper quality, and to make her absolute mistress of a technique that has long been the envy of her rivals. Her very presence last night upon the platform was a joy. She was dressed in white satin, trimmed with seed-pearls and the jewel about her bosom were barbaric in their magnificence. And crowning all, she wore a diamond and turquoise tiara that seemed a fitting decoration for a queen of song.

The concert was a varied one. The selections designed not only to display her marked versatility, but the gamut of her power, and from Gounod's "La Reine de Saba" through Bizet, Gomes, Faure, Leoncavallo, Strauss, Hugo Wolf and Schumann down to the quaint little English ballade with which she closed, she was perfectly at home; apparently as much delighted with the joy she found in singing as her auditors were at her rapturous song. If there was one number that proved a favorite in a long program which her graciousness and kindness so much extended, it was the "Vieille Chanson," by Bizet, the first number in the second part of her program.

Here, indeed, the voice which has delighted the world of music for so many years, seemed at its very best; the old tender feeling was in it; the faintness, the sweetness, the beauty,

ful melody. It was no wonder that it won so much applause. But the great singer was more human, perhaps, more near the hearts of her audience when she sang those simple little ballads, and the way she rendered that dainty mother-song, "Sweetest Little Fellow," was a sheer delight.

Assisting Mme. Nordica was Miss Emma Showers, who, as a soloist on the piano, won much applause, her Liszt "Rhapsodie" being especially well received. Then there was Mr. Frederick Hastings, baritone, a young singer who should be heard from if his performance last night is a sample of his powers; for he has a voice of wonderful range and volume, and he uses it with great skill and effect. Seldom has anything more beautiful been heard than his rendering of that pathetic requiem of Robert Louis Stevenson, which has been set to music by Arthur Foote. All the longing, the gladness at the coming of release, all the pathos, Mr. Hastings expressed in a beautiful way.

Later on he sang Elger's "Sword Song" and Schumann's "The Two Grenadiers," in a manner to confirm the fine impression he had earlier made.

The concert, as a whole, was a marked success, and an auspicious opening for a musical season which promises to be brilliant.

Victor and His Band.
The second concert of the Radcliffe entertainment course, which opened so successfully a few weeks ago, will be given Friday, October 23d, when Victor and His Venetian Band will be the attraction.

Victor came to this country under the management of Oscar Hammerstein, the manager of the Manhattan Opera House, of New York City, and is now making his third American tour. He has with him some of the best musicians of Italy and his band surpasses in excellence even that of the widely heralded Creators.

The program is one of unusual excellence. There will be the usual popular selections, played with a rhythm that unconsciously sets the feet in motion, but there will also be the thunder and crash of Wagner's "Tannhauser" and "Lohengrin," as well as the wild, weird frenzy of Liszt's famous Hungarian "Rhapsodies."

But the piece de resistance is the ever popular "Serenade" from "Lucia di Lammermoor," the melody of which haunts one's memory for days after hearing it.

The soprano soloist, Miss Grace Key Miller, is a singer of splendid ability, and her songs with band accompaniment, of a striking feature of the splendid program.

In a certain Southern college town, when Signor Victor and his Venetian Band were making their first Southern tour, under the direction of the Radcliffe Entertainment Bureau, Victor had an experience which neither he nor the audience is ever likely to forget. The band had played several heavy classical numbers, which were most enthusiastically received, and in recognition of the applause the band responded with the beautiful old Southern melody "Way Down Upon the Suwannee River." The audience was fairly electrified, and when one of the ushers was seen making his way toward the stage with an immense bouquet of roses, the enthusiasm was intensified. Signor Victor received the floral token, smiling and bowing his appreciation of the compliment. Again the audience applauded, and then a college boy started the cry "Speech, Victor Speech." His companions too up the call with a shout. Signor Victor, who spoke but little English, was plainly embarrassed and for just a single moment looked as though he would have preferred to have been roaming the vine-clad hills of his native Italy, rather than facing that audience. His embarrassment, however, was but for a moment, then raising his hand for silence, as the inspiration came to him, he said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I speak da English ver little, but dis my speech," and with a wave of his baton he brought his musicians to their feet, and then pandemonium reigned, for the band was playing "Dixie." That was Victor's speech.

Seats will be placed on sale at the Academy box office on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock.

"Through Death Valley."
The leading man of the "Through Death Valley" company, which will play an engagement here at the Bijou all week, must be something of a snake-charmer, as well as an actor of ability. In the most thrilling scene of the play he and a rattlesnake are the conspicuous characters on the stage.

As a unique form of torture, both man and snake have been tied to stakes, so placed that the snake's head comes within an inch of the hero's face. The wily Indian who has contrived this scheme of death knows that with the first rain the snake's body will become elongated, and that he will bury his fangs in his neighbor's cheek. It is absolutely necessary for the effective development of this scene to employ a real snake, and since at the climax of the scene the reptile's head is shot off, just as it is about to accomplish the death of the hero, the



MADAME NORDICA.

snake does not last longer than one performance.

Consequently a part of the equipment of the "Through Death Valley" company is a case of rattlesnakes that have been carefully attended to by a snake dentist, thereby suffering the loss of its fangs. A two weeks' supply is usually carried with the company. The stock is replenished in lots of twenty-five. For emergency purposes, a "prop" snake is carried with the company, but up to date this understudy has not been called upon to do service.

Moving Pictures at Colonial.
The cleanliness, coziness and splendid ventilation of the Colonial is probably the explanation of the success achieved by this playhouse while devoted to the moving picture class of entertainment, and in view of the satisfaction given to the great crowds



VICTOR, THE BANDMASTER.

that surged toward Eighth and Broad Streets is an index of the success sure to follow the re-entrance of the Colonial in the moving picture field to-morrow afternoon.

In addition to the performance given there during the warm months, Winter, Vincent and Wells have arranged for the appearance of the Marathon Comedy four, a quartet of popular singers with the newest and best of song successes. A portion of the entertainment will be devoted to the illustrative songs specialty, and three separate, distinct and original films are to be displayed. Best of all, the prices will be exactly the same as prevailed during the summer months for the afternoon or night performances, two being given each after-

noon and three each night, with the special inducement to women and children at the matinees of half admission price. The entire program will be changed twice weekly, and every Monday and Tuesday a new bill throughout will be given.

COBB GREAT AS KELLY

Manager Hugh Jennings, of the Tigers, a few days ago, made the assertion that Ty Cobb is as fast as Mike Kelly, the hero of the baseball diamond. Said he: "Cobb is faster than Kelly was, and he has a great slide. Why shouldn't he attain as great results? Kelly wasn't the fastest man who ever lived. But he knew how to get a start, when to go, and how to slide into a bag. His arm from finger tips to elbow was the only thing a baseman had to touch when he was making a slide on a close play. Kelly once offered to make a peculiar bet with Jack Crooks. He offered Crooks the ball. The latter was to hold it just as he would in taking a throw, until Kelly, coming full speed was ten feet from second. An umpire was to call the play at that instant, and Kelly's bet was that he would complete the ten feet slide into the bag, and make it untugged. Crooks wouldn't accept.

The slide is the big thing, and Ty is as good at it as they make them. He goes in either way, and a baseman is handicapped if he doesn't know whether a man is coming in front of him or behind him. He has to keep the bag covered and be prepared to swing to either side. When a baserunner always comes straight into a bag it's a cinch for the baseman. He can't get away if the ball is there. He can't hurt you, either, if you have any suspicion that he may try. All you've got to do is wait on him, spread out, and ride him into the bag, putting the ball on him. If he comes up with the spikes up, jump with him. Nobody can hurt you if you have any idea that he will try. But if a man slides head first—well, there isn't a chance for him. We used to love those slides in the old Baltimore days.

The nearest they ever got to the bag was the knee that blocked it off. They waited there until we got the ball. Most of the Baltimore runners were said about their roughness, but it's overdrawn. We never tried to spike any one, though we insisted on having a path to the base. Of course, we used to walk on Patsy Tebeau's feet a little and go into other bases pretty high when playing the summer months. The games between those two clubs were



DOLIE DUPREE, With "Through Death Valley," at the Bijou.

different, and it was give and take both ways, and all fair, with no crying on either side. We didn't frater, unless on or off the field. And the crowds were there always. They like to see a game without the handshaking."

RUSIE AND MATHEWSON

Rusie had the greatest speed and curves; but Mathewson possesses the greatest generalship. That's how President Brush, of the New York Club, picked up the greatest pitcher of a decade ago as compared with the present star of the rubber. It's rather a pe-

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curious coincidence that the New York Club should have secured the greatest pitcher "that is" for the greatest pitcher "that was," the Cincinnati club setting the lemon in exchange for the peach.

While waiting for the board of directors of the National League to hand down the decision in the New York-Chicago disputed game case President Brush was induced to give a short discourse on "Stars I Have Fanned." He told of the finding of Rusie by the Indianapolis club when he was but seventeen years old, how he was knocked galley west and crooked on the occasion of his first appearance, sent back to the farm for a few months, and then returned to first company as a conqueror of the first water. The Mathewson yarn included a recital of how the Cincinnati club had drafted Matty from Norfolk after New York had turned him back rather than pay \$2,000; how he, as president of the Reds, had traded Mathewson for Rusie even before he had signed the future star to a contract, and how Mathewson turned out a wonder, or the Giants, while Rusie was a flat failure with the Reds. "Of the two men," said Mr. Brush, "I believe Rusie was the greater mechanical pitcher. He had wonderful speed, unlimited endurance and any pitcher ever over displayed. But when it comes down to intelligent pitching, Mathewson is by far the greater man. Not only does Matty pretty closely approach Rusie in speed and curves, but he has to the other fellow in the matter of inside work. Mathew-

son has been working in fast company since 1901, and he was never better than he is this year. Yes, I've had the two greatest pitchers in baseball in the last twenty years, and of the two I would much rather have Mathewson than Rusie."

Job for Pitcher Kitson.
The Kalamazoo Baseball Association, with a capital stock of \$1,000, all paid up, has been organized and will take over property held by the former association. The new officers are: President, Goddard Regenbaum; Vice-President, James Frank; Secretary, C. A. Blaney; Treasurer, Edgar Rasmussen; Acting Secretary, Harry Frank Jackson. The directors have under consideration as manager for 1909 team Frank Kitson, Harry Martin or Eddie Taylor.

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